

ideals upon which this country was founded, and it is with great honor and respect that we honor the life and service of Reverend George Docherty. Our great thanks go to this remarkable individual, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RECOGNIZING BILL DOUGLASS
CONVENIENCE STORE HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor an outstanding citizen in the Fourth District of Texas and my longtime friend, Bill Douglass of Sherman, as a 2008 Convenience Store Hall of Fame Inductee.

This year's Convenience Store News Hall of Fame induction ceremony in October honored Bill as much for his strong character, integrity and community service as for his business achievements. Bill was honored for his tireless efforts on behalf of the convenience and petroleum retailing industry and for the level of integrity that he has upheld over the years. The W. Douglass Distributing Company, which Bill founded in 1981 and which he serves as CEO, is a full-line distributorship and operator of the 15-unit Lone Star Food Stores chain servicing the region of north Texas and southern Oklahoma. The company, which began with just six employees, has grown to more than 280 employees.

Throughout his career, Bill has been a tireless and effective advocate for the convenience and petroleum retailing industry. He has served as chairman of the General Committee of State Relations for the American Petroleum Institute, chairman of the National Association of Convenience Stores and director of the Texas Petroleum and Convenience Store Association, and he has testified on several occasions before Congress about issues important to his industry.

Bill is also a widely recognized and respected member of the north Texas community, providing financial support and volunteer efforts to various local organizations each year. In 2002 he and his wife, Joan, were named as the Outstanding Employer of Older Workers for their strong belief in the value of older workers by maintaining an age-balanced group of employees. Their winning combination of younger workers and their older counterparts has created a work environment where age and experience can assist in training, advice and counseling. The company has no mandatory retirement age and provides flexibility in scheduling of employees' hours.

Madam Speaker, Bill Douglass is the kind of employer who leads by example. These are some of the words that his employees used to describe him and his family in a full-page newspaper ad: "wonderful, inspirational, brilliant, graceful, generous, charitable, tireless, encouraging, selfless, devoted, integrity." Bill Douglass embodies all of those qualities—and I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this wonderful man and outstanding American, Bill Douglass.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
EMILIO ALBERT DE LA GARZA, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize Ivy Tech Community College as it dedicates its East Chicago, Indiana campus and to join the institute in paying tribute to its namesake, Vietnam War hero Lance Corporal Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. After completing the first phase of a new modernization project, Ivy Tech will be holding a dedication ceremony on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the campus in East Chicago, Indiana. The event will serve not only as an opportunity to showcase the improvements to the campus and to reaffirm its commitment to excellence in higher learning, but it will also serve as a chance to reflect on the bravery and heroism of one of East Chicago's own.

Ivy Tech Community College's East Chicago campus has served students from Northwest Indiana and beyond since 1994. Always committed to improving the learning environment for its students, the De La Garza campus, which began with 376 students and now serves an impressive enrollment of 1,122 students, recently completed the first phase of a modernization project. This project, which began in July 2006, features improvements to general maintenance and enhanced safety measures, as well as new and improved conference rooms and student common areas. Phase II of this project, set to begin in January 2009, will focus on improvements to the classrooms and computer labs.

These renovations are the result of the continuous outpouring of support from the community, offered as a living memory of one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens and greatest heroes, Lance Corporal Emilio A. De La Garza, Jr. Lance Corporal De La Garza was born in East Chicago, Indiana on June 23, 1949. Following his graduation from East Chicago Washington High School in 1968, the patriotic and devoted De La Garza decided to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While serving as a machine gunner with Company E, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam on April 11, 1970, Lance Corporal De La Garza paid the ultimate sacrifice. Demonstrating the most selfless act imaginable, Lance Corporal De La Garza placed himself between two of his fellow Marines and a live grenade. While Lance Corporal De La Garza's life was lost, his courageous act spared the lives of the other Marines.

Lance Corporal Emilio De La Garza, Jr. performed the ultimate act of heroism, setting aside personal safety for the safety of others. For his bravery, Lance Corporal De La Garza was posthumously honored by President Richard Nixon with the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ivy Tech Community College's administrators, faculty, staff, students and members of the community who, over the years, have contributed to its success in achieving its standard of excellence, as well as in honoring

the school's namesake, Lance Corporal Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. The efforts of those involved have made the De La Garza campus a tremendous source of pride of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have made the campus a constant reminder of one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens.

HONORING AL AUSTIN ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of one of Tampa Bay's finest citizens, Al Austin, on the occasion of his upcoming 80th birthday.

A lifelong Floridian, Al grew up on his family's egg farm in St. Petersburg. After his high school graduation and college at the University of Tampa, Al joined the Coast Guard, where he performed admirably in service to our Nation.

Following his military service, Al partnered with his family to start a real estate development business in the Tampa Bay region. Since then his family-owned company has continued to grow and helped build the greater Tampa community. Without his influence the Tampa St. Pete region would not be the economic growth engine for the State that it is today.

In addition to his success in real estate, Al and his wife Beverly share a passion for education. After founding the Tampa Preparatory School in the 1970s, they went on to lead fundraising campaigns for the refurbishment and growth of the University of Tampa campus. Their commitment to local charitable organizations has truly benefitted thousands of people throughout the region.

In his spare time, Al loves to collect and drive classic sports cars. He has also earned a reputation as one of the leading Republicans in Florida, having worked with State and national leaders for the past 40 years to help grow and expand the party. Al has also served various Florida Governors throughout his career as the head of the Florida Racing Commission, a member of the Hillsborough Aviation Authority as well as serving on the Military Base Closure Advisory Committee.

Madam Speaker, I know that Al's upcoming birthday celebration will commemorate a lifetime of hard work and service to others. He has a proven track record of giving back and helping to make Florida and our Nation better and more prosperous places. I know that the House will join me in wishing Al a happy 80th birthday, with many more to come in the future.

HONORING M. PAUL REDD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize M. Paul Redd and the 80th anniversary of the Westchester County Press and

its contributions to the community. The Westchester County Press has published news about politics, religion, and social events in our district.

While the Westchester County Press targeted a broad audience when it was founded in 1928, it eventually focused more exclusively on religious and social news in the African-American community. In 1950, Dr. Alger L. Adams bought the newspaper and transformed it into a publication for black audiences to give voice to their contributions to the fabric of our society. Decades later, the Press is still thriving.

In 1961, Paul Redd was hired as a columnist for the Westchester County Press. In 1986, Mr. Redd purchased the paper, for which he now serves as president and publisher. For 47 years, Redd has written a column, "M. Paul Tells All," which informs his readers about politics and opportunities to get involved in the political process.

As a life-long advocate, Paul Redd's interests have included employment training for the disenfranchised, voter registration, education, and civic participation. Redd served as president and chief operating officer of the Westchester-Putnam Affirmative Action Program, Inc., for over 25 years. The agency's employment and training activities have resulted in over 5,000 job placements for local residents.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend M. Paul Redd for his unparalleled contributions to the community through the Westchester County Press and other organizations, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments on the 80th anniversary of the Westchester County Press.

TRIBUTE TO ROBBIE FLOYD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness and great respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Ms. Robbie Floyd of Gary, Indiana. Ms. Floyd's many contributions to the Northwest Indiana community, as a businesswoman, as a civil servant, and as a leader within her church, are worthy of our deepest admiration. Robbie passed away on Sunday, September 28, 2008, but the impact and influence she has had on her community will surely live on for generations to come.

Robbie Lorraine Floyd was born in Gunnison, Mississippi to Joseph and Julia Floyd. At the age of 8, Robbie relocated to Gary, Indiana. She attended Froebel High School, one of only two schools in the City of Gary with integrated classes, where African-American students could attend with other children and receive the same education. The type of person who always sought to deepen her understanding of different areas, Robbie later enrolled in real estate school and became a licensed realtor.

Known for her focus and determination, Robbie Floyd took on the many challenges life brought her, and in spite of the shortage of advantages for African-Americans, sought to improve the quality of her life and the lives of her other family members. In the 1940s, she

and her father became owner-operators of a grocery store, as well as apartment rental units in Gary.

Ms. Floyd, a true activist in the Northwest Indiana area, also recognized that having a voice at City Hall was essential to social progress. Recognizing the respect Robbie had in her community, and seeing just how dedicated an individual she was, then Mayor Peter Mandich encouraged her to enter politics. Thus she became a Precinct Committee-woman twice, first in District 4 and later in District 3. These positions enabled Robbie to serve her constituents by giving them a voice and allowing them to acquire the services they needed. Later, continuing her service in the public sector, Robbie worked as the Administrative Assistant/Secretary to two city controllers, George Chacharis and my father, John Visclosky, both of whom later became mayors of the City of Gary. It is in the City Controller's office that I first met Ms. Floyd as a child. Robbie kept an eye on me there, and until the day of her passing, to make sure I stayed on the straight and narrow.

A true renaissance woman, Robbie Floyd was also the first African-American woman to serve as a police officer for the Lake County Sheriff. As her peers would recall, in breaking this glass ceiling, she did so with distinction, dignity, honor, and dedication. For her efforts, she was honored with the highest accolade bestowed upon an individual by the governor of the State of Indiana, the Sagamore of the Wabash.

While she was fully committed to the people of Gary and Northwest Indiana, Robbie's commitment to her faith was equally impressive. After confessing Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior with First Baptist Church in Gary, she later became a charter member of Christ Baptist Church. Prior to her passing, Ms. Floyd was a key member of her church. For 16 years, Robbie served as its Financial Secretary. As her congregation would attest, she loved serving others and never failed to aid "the stranger," "the friend," or "the child" in any way that she could. Robbie was known for her ability to help those who needed it most, leading to her participation in various church ministries, including: the Willing Workers, Church School, the Church School Fellowship Committee, for which she served as its chair, Male Chorus Boosters, and the Pearce Prayer and Study Group.

While Robbie Floyd was always active in her community and her church, she cherished her time with her family the most. She leaves to cherish her memory two daughters, Dr. Doris Keys Ward and Debra Floyd; grandnieces, LaTanya Obgiofor, Desnee Flakes, and Donna Floyd; grandnephews, Cordell (Millicent) Olive and Joseph Floyd, and numerous great-grandnieces and nephews. She will also be greatly missed by her many friends, her Pastor, Reverend Dr. Maurice White, Jr., and all of the members of Christ Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Robbie Lorraine Floyd for her outstanding devotion to her community in Northwest Indiana. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation. Robbie's selflessness was an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to have represented her in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL H. SNIDER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Paul H. Snider. Paul is a loyal American and a fine man.

Paul grew up in Denair, CA and graduated from Turlock High School. After high school he entered the U.S. Maritime Service as a radio operator. Following his Maritime service, he enrolled in Modesto Junior College. While attending Modesto Junior College, Paul and his father started Snider Honey, a business in which they marketed and distributed honey to retailers. One of those retailers was Tom Raley, who at that time had only one store in Placerville, but went on to establish the well-known chain of Raley's grocery stores.

After graduating from Modesto Junior College, Paul joined the National Guard. He was sent to Okinawa for 6 months and was honorably discharged in January 1953. Upon returning to California, Paul began working for his uncle, Stewart Snider, selling Buicks. As was the custom in the early 1950s, Paul went door-to-door after dinner contacting people who had visited the dealership in order to sell them a car.

In 1956, Paul bought his own Chevy dealership in Patterson, CA. In 1966, he bought a Volkswagen dealership in Sacramento. Paul's success continued, and at one time he owned about one dozen dealerships, including Ford, Toyota, Nissan, Volkswagen, Chevy, Pontiac, Isuzu, Hyundai, and Infiniti. Paul has managed to succeed in business without compromising his character; he has remained humble and has cared about his many employees. In fact, Paul hated it when he was forced to fire someone and agonized over the decision each time it needed to be made.

Paul has three children: Shelby, Marcus, and Blake. He is an avid hunter and has been a member of the Safari Club International, Ducks Unlimited, the Lions Club, and the Rotary Club. He has contributed generously and repeatedly to the Red Cross, the Shriners, the River Oak Center for Children Foundation (for children with developmental disabilities), and to Ducks Unlimited and the Safari Club International. Paul is a man who puts his energy behind his beliefs, and he has been a faithful supporter of many conservative causes. I am grateful for his support and friendship and wish him well in the years to come.

OSCAR ELIAS BISCET

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this last December 6 was the 9th anniversary of the imprisonment—the cruel and unjust imprisonment in a cold and damp cell in the most inhuman of conditions—of the great Cuban leader in the fight for democracy and human rights in that imprisoned island, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. Dr. Biscet is prohibited even from walking in the prison's yard, and he is incarcerated along with common criminals.